

10/057,099

-2-

A0000247-01-MG

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently amended): A method for detecting gabapentinoid activity in a compound comprising the steps of:

- (a) introducing into host cells that express the NK receptor a heterologous DNA sequence that encodes a reporter polypeptide in response to Erk-2 activation;
- (b) separating the host cells into at least two groups, a first group and a second group;
- (c) treating the first group of host cells with a target compound;
- (d) treating the first group and second group of host cells with an ~~Erk-2~~ NK receptor agonist;
- (e) determining reported polypeptide activity in the first group and in the second group; and
- (f) comparing reporter polypeptide activity from the first group to the second group.

Claim 2 (Originally filed): The method of Claim 1, wherein the host cells are Chinese hamster ovary (CHO) cells.

Claim 3 (Originally filed): The method of Claim 1, wherein the heterologous DNA sequence encodes luciferase.

Claim 4 (Cancelled).

Claim 5 (Currently amended): The method of Claim 1, wherein in the ~~Erk-2~~ NK receptor agonist is substance P.

Claim 6 (Currently amended): The method of Claim 1, wherein ~~the separating step (b)~~ comprises the step of separating the host cells into a plurality of groups, and ~~the compound treating step (c)~~ comprises treating each separate group with a compound having a final concentration of between 1 μ M and 1 mM.

10/057,099

-3-

A0000247-01-MG

Claims 7-9 (Cancelled).

Claim 10 (Currently amended): The method of Claim 1, wherein ~~the treating with the Erk-2 agonist step (d)~~ occurs prior to ~~the treating with the gabapentinoid step (c)~~.

Claims 11-15 (Cancelled).

Claim 16 (Originally filed): A kit for performing an in vitro assay to detect gabapentinoid activity in a compound comprising: a cell line genetically engineered to over-express the NK-1 receptor.

Claim 17 (Currently amended): The kit of Claim ~~15~~ 16, wherein the genetically engineered cell line further contains a MAP kinase inducible reporter construct.

Claim 18 (Cancelled).

Claim 19 (New). A method for detecting gabapentinoid activity in a compound comprising the steps of:

- (a) introducing into host cells that express the NK1 receptor a heterologous DNA sequence that encodes a reporter polypeptide in response to Erk-2 activation;
- (b) separating the host cells into at least two groups, a first group and a second group;
- (c) treating the first group of host cells with a target compound;
- (d) treating the first group and second group of host cells with an NK receptor agonist;
- (e) determining reported polypeptide activity in the first group and in the second group;
- and
- (f) comparing reporter polypeptide activity from the first group to the second group.